

CLAIMS:

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

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1. ~~A personal smart pointer device capable of interfacing with a~~
device for providing cursor movement functionality for a device
display, said pointer device comprising:
a memory storage device for enabling storage of personalized
data relating to customized aspects of a user application;
a control mechanism for controlling receipt of personalized
data from a first device to said memory storage device in
response to a first command; and, in response to a second command
said control mechanism controlling transfer of personalized data
from said memory storage device to a second device; and,
a mechanism in said second device responsive to receipt of
said personalized data for altering a like user application in
accordance with said customized aspects, wherein said pointer
device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects
of many user applications of first devices to facilitate use of
~~like applications on said second devices.~~
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2. The smart personal pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
further comprising interface mechanism for enabling input of said
first and second commands.
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3. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
further comprising mechanism for retaining original user
application preferences currently existing in said second device
prior to altering said user application with said user customized
aspects, said mechanism further restoring said user application
preferences for said user application after disconnecting said
pointer device from said second device.

1 4. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
2 wherein said customized aspects of user applications are stored
3 in associated preference files in said memory storage device.

1 5. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
2 wherein said interface mechanism comprises a communication device
3 for receiving said personalized data from said first device and,
4 for transmitting said personalized data to said second device.

1 6. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 5,
2 wherein said communication device implements a universal serial
3 bus (USB) communications protocol.

1 7. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 5,
2 wherein said communication device transfers signals including
3 said personalized data according to a wireless communications
4 protocol.

1 8. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 7,
2 wherein said wireless communications protocol includes a
3 Bluetooth radio frequency (RF) communications standard.

1 9. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 7,
2 wherein said wireless communications protocol includes an IEEE
3 802.11 communications standard.

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1 10. ~~The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 2,~~
2 ~~wherein said interface mechanism further comprises a touch-~~
3 ~~sensitive panel interface, said first and second commands~~
4 ~~comprising one or more graffiti characters each representing an~~
5 ~~application to be launched in said personal pointer device.~~

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11. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
further comprising password protection mechanism for enabling
user to use said pointer device.

12. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
further comprising: mechanism for receiving sensor information
pertaining to use of said pointer device, said control mechanism
initiating transfer of said sensor information to a user
application in said second device to thereby render said user
application sensitive to a particular context.

13. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein said sensor information includes environmental data.

14. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein a first and second device comprises one of: a personal
computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a
network device.

15. The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein the control mechanism includes mechanism for recognizing
a like application being executed on said second device and
automatically initiating said transfer of personalized data.

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16. ~~A method for customizing software applications in electronic
devices via a mouse device, said method comprising:~~

a) receiving personalized data relating to customized
aspects of a user application capable of executing in a first
electronic device;

b) storing said personalized data in a memory storage device
provided in said mouse device;

8 ~~c) subsequently transferring said stored personalized data~~
9 to a like user application capable of executing in a second
10 electronic device; and,

11 d) altering said like user application executing in said
12 second computing device in accordance with said customized
13 aspects, wherein said mouse device is transportable for
14 transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of
15 first devices to facilitate use of like applications in said
16 ~~second devices.~~

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C3 17. The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein prior to step d),
2 the step of retaining original user application preferences
3 currently existing in said second device.

18. The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein after use of said
like application on said second device by said user, the step of:
restoring said original user application preferences for said
like application on said second device after disconnecting said
mouse from said second device.

19. The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said receiving
step a) and transferring step d) is accomplished in accordance
with a wireless communications protocol.

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C3 20. ~~The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a first and~~
2 ~~second electronic device comprises one of: a personal computer, a~~
3 ~~personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network~~
4 ~~device.~~

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C3 21. The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said ~~transferring~~
2 step c) further comprises the step of: recognizing a like
3 application being executed on said second device and
4 automatically initiating said transfer of personalized data.

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1 22. ~~A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly~~
2 embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to
3 perform method steps for customizing software applications
4 executing in electronic devices, said method steps including the
5 steps of:

6 a) receiving personalized data relating to customized
7 aspects of a user application capable of executing in a first
8 electronic device;

9 b) storing said personalized data in a memory storage device
10 provided in said mouse device;

11 c) subsequently transferring said stored personalized data
12 to a like user application capable of executing in a second
13 electronic device; and,

14 d) altering said like user application executing in said
15 second computing device in accordance with said customized
16 aspects, wherein said mouse device is transportable for
17 transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of
18 first devices to facilitate use of like applications on said
19 ~~second devices.~~

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20 23. The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed
21 in Claim 22, wherein prior to step d), the step of retaining
22 original user application preferences currently existing in said
23 second device.

24 24. The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed
25 in Claim 23, wherein after use of said like application on said
26 second device by said user, the step of: restoring said original
27 user application preferences for said like application on said
28 second device after disconnecting said mouse from said second
29 device.

1 25. The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed
2 in Claim 22, wherein said receiving step a) and transferring step
3 d) is accomplished in accordance with a wireless communications
4 protocol.

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1 26. ~~The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed~~
2 ~~in Claim 22, wherein a first and second electronic device~~
3 ~~comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital~~
4 ~~assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.~~

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1 27. The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed
2 in Claim 22, wherein said transferring step c) further comprises
3 the step of: recognizing a like application being executed on
4 said second device and automatically initiating said transfer of
5 personalized data.